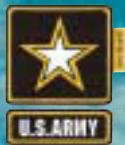


The Soldiers Almanac 2003



The Official U.S. Army Magazine

www.soldiersmagazine.com

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Printing: Gateway Press, Inc., Louisville, Ky.

Soldiers (ISSN 0093-8440) is published monthly under supervision of the Army Chief of Public Affairs to provide the Total Army with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of the Army. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. ■ Manuscripts of interest to Army personnel are invited. Direct communication is authorized to Editor, **Soldiers**, 9325 Gunston Road, Suite S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581. Phone: DSN 656-4486 or commercial (703) 806-4486. Or send e-mail to soldiers@belvoir.army.mil. ■ Unless otherwise indicated (and except for "by permission" and copyright items), material may be reprinted provided credit is given to **Soldiers** and the author. ■ All photographs by U.S. Army except as otherwise credited.

■ Military distribution: From the U.S. Army Distribution Operations Facility, 1655 Woodson Road, St. Louis, MO 63114-6181, in accordance with Initial Distribution Number (IDN) 050007 subscription requirements submitted by commanders. ■ The Secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the department. ■ Use of funds for printing this publication was approved by the Secretary of the Army on Sept. 2, 1986, in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 25-30. Library of Congress call number: U1.A827. ■ Periodicals postage paid at Fort Belvoir, VA, and additional mailing offices. ■ Individual domestic subscriptions are available at \$38 per year through the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954. For credit card orders call (202) 512-1800 or FAX (202) 512-2250.

■ To change addresses for individual subscriptions, send your mailing label with changes to: Superintendent of Documents, Mail Stop SSOM, Washington, DC 20402.

■ POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Fort Belvoir address above.

Front cover:
Silhouetted MH-6 Little Birds carry special-
operations soldiers to a training exercise.
— Ted Carlson

Message from the Secretary and Chief of Staff of the Army

THE *2003 Soldiers Almanac* marks the conclusion of another year of Soldiering. And once again, our country and the world have witnessed the unparalleled tenacity, profound courage, and plain grit that have characterized the American Soldier for more than 227 years. In Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Anaconda and on point in more than 120 countries around the globe, the American Soldier has remained without equal in defending our freedom, preserving the peace, and demonstrating the resolve of the United States.

Each of you — Soldiers, civilians, veterans, retirees, and all of your families — should take great pride in your achievements in 2002. Your individual and collective commitment, devotion, and selfless service are testimony that People continue to deliver all of our magnificent moments as an Army.

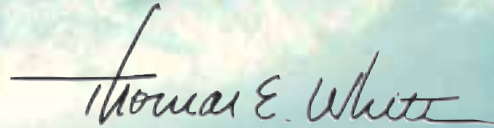
In 2001, The Army achieved sustainable momentum in our Transformation. We have now put into place the framework that will allow the next Chief of Staff to achieve the irreversible momentum that will see the Objective Force fielded, this decade. And this year, we announced that we are *Realizing The Army Vision* — a result of the hard work, dedication, ingenuity and intellect of all who have continued to provide their unwavering support to our Soldiers.

Our country remains at war, and The Army is fulfilling our nonnegotiable contract with the American people — to fight and win our Nation's wars, decisively. Prepare yourselves for the challenges in the year ahead. Stay trained and ready, and look to the Well-Being of your fellow Soldiers and their families — always keeping your eyes on the objective.

Thank you for all that you continue to do to defend this Nation and keep us free. And may God bless you and your families, The Army, and this magnificent country.



Eric K. Shinseki
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff



Thomas E. White
Secretary of the Army

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PFC Daniel Gough, an M-249 gunner from the 25th Infantry Division's Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, stands on top of his Humvee during a presence patrol outside the town of Olovo, Bosnia.
— SFC Kanessa Mynett

Year in Review 2002

INFORMATION for this chronology was taken from *Soldiers* magazine, the Army News Service, the American Forces Press Service and other official news sources. For more extensive information related to the war on terrorism, see the timeline in *Soldiers*' September 2002 issue, "Attack on America."

January

Tech. Sgt. Efrain Gonzalez, USAF



► With Taliban and al Qaeda forces in Afghanistan now in retreat, coalition forces begin clearing mine fields, building roads and bridges, and assisting relief organizations in the delivery of food and medical supplies to Afghan refugees.

- U.S. forces deploy to the Philippines to train and provide intelligence and logistical support to Philippine soldiers dealing with terrorist organizations in that country.
- The Southern European Task Force in Italy reactivates the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry. One of the first U.S. airborne units established during World War II, the battalion parachuted into Lormel, Algeria, on Nov. 8, 1942.
- Basic trainees at Fort Benning, Ga., begin a new physical readiness training program which is a model for future fitness training throughout the Army.
- The 2002 Defense Authorization Act allows official travelers to accept promotional items, including frequent-flier miles, and use them for personal travel.

SSG Michael Rautio



► The Army sponsors the All-American Bowl football game, in San Antonio, Texas, featuring the nation's best high school athletes.

February

- ▶ An Army officer is killed and another soldier injured during a special forces training exercise when a sheriff's deputy mistakes their activities outside Fort Bragg, N.C., as being terrorist-related.
- ▶ The "stop-loss" program, implemented in November, expands to cover 38 military occupational specialties.
- ▶ Twelve U.S. service members are killed in the crash of an Army MH-47 helicopter supporting local anti-terrorist activities in the Philippines.
- ▶ "Stryker," the Army's new interim armored vehicle, is named in honor of PFC Stuart S. Stryker, who received the Medal of Honor for actions during World War II, and SP4 Robert F. Stryker, who received the award for actions during the Vietnam War.
- ▶ The Army awards the first contracts to hire and manage civilians to perform recruiter duties in 10 communities across the country.



Arthur McQueen

- ▶ Soldiers from U.S. Army, Europe, deploy to Lagos, Nigeria, to begin disposal of thousands of pieces of unexploded ordnance that litter fields and neighborhoods in the wake of explosions at the Ikeja cantonment area in Lagos.

- ▶ SPC Jill Bakken and her civilian teammate earn gold medals in the women's bobsled competition at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah. In the men's competition, teams with soldier-athletes take silver and bronze medals.

March

- ▶ Operation Anaconda, a campaign to drive al Qaeda forces from the mountains, begins in the Shah-e-Kot valley in Afghanistan. The operation includes soldiers from the 101st Airborne and 10th Mountain divisions.
- ▶ Retired SMA Leon L. Van Autreve, 82, dies at his home in San Antonio, Texas. A World War II and Vietnam War veteran, Van Autreve was the fourth sergeant major of the Army, serving from July 1973 to June 1975.
- ▶ The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., begins celebration of its 200th birthday.
- ▶ Soldiers are now required to add e-mail addresses to their NCO evaluation reports. The U.S. Total Army Personnel Command established the requirement to stop the return of NCO-ERs and more quickly obtain information that might be missing from the report.
- ▶ At the 2002 Phillip A. Connelly Award presentations, the Army names the 95th Adjutant General Bn. at Fort Sill, Okla., as best large garrison dining facility, and the 102nd Military Intelligence Bn., in Korea, as best small-garrison facility.
- ▶ The All-Army wrestling team captures the Armed Forces Wrestling Championship.



- ▶ Army astronaut LTC Nancy J. Currie, flight engineer aboard the space shuttle *Columbia*, directs the repair and upgrade of the Hubble Space Telescope.

April

- ▶ The first Stryker interim armored vehicle enters the Army inventory.
- ▶ In Bosnia, Stabilization Force 10, headed by the National Guard's 29th Inf. Div., primarily based in Maryland and Virginia, transfers peacekeeping authority to SFOR 11, headed by the Hawaii-based 25th Inf. Div.
- ▶ An Army finance clerk is found guilty of the premeditated murder of her two young children in Hanau, Germany, and sentenced to life in prison.
- ▶ The Army asks Congress for more specific wording of environmental laws that currently constrain testing and training activities on some military installations due to encroachment from urban sprawl, protection of endangered species and handling of munitions.

SPC George Allen



- ▶ Soldiers deliver medical supplies and critical health equipment to victims of a severe earthquake that struck Afghanistan's Baghlan province, killing more than 1,000 people and leaving 30,000 homeless.

May

- ▶ U.S. soldiers begin anti-terrorism training of local forces in the former Soviet republic of Georgia.
- ▶ Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld announces termination of the Crusader artillery system program.
- ▶ The Interim Brigade Combat Team at Fort Lewis, Wash., receives the first shipment of Stryker interim armored vehicles.
- ▶ The Army co-sponsors NASCAR driver Brian Vickers, 18, the youngest driver on the professional circuit. The Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command's National Automotive Center in Warren, Mich., had been Vicker's official sponsor.

SPC Michelle Lunato



- ▶ Soldiers of Task Force Medical Eagle provide medical and dental care to villagers of Srednja Trnava, Bosnia.



- ▶ All service members on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, become eligible to wear the National Defense Service Medal.

- ▶ LTC Steve Kihara becomes the first Army test pilot to command the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Md.
- ▶ U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit team members SSG Jason Parker and SGT Armando Ayala earn gold and silver medals, respectively, in the men's air rifle competition at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in Atlanta, Ga.
- ▶ As a safety precaution, the Army grounds hundreds of Black Hawk helicopters. Only mission-essential flights such as medical evacuation and combat are allowed.

June

- ▶ The Army and Air Force successfully transport a Stryker infantry carrier vehicle on a C-130H aircraft during testing at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. The ability to air transport the Stryker is a key element in the Army's Transformation objectives.
- ▶ U.S. and coalition forces searching eastern Afghanistan for al Qaeda and Taliban fighters continue finding ammunition and weapons caches in an area honeycombed with caves and man-made tunnels.
- ▶ Defense Department officials announce the restart of a modified Anthrax immunization program. Only personnel serving in high-threat areas will receive the vaccine.
- ▶ U.S. Army Space Command provides satellite imagery and infrared data to help firefighters in Arizona and Colorado assess damage, create maps and find ways to best fight widespread wildfires.



MSG Bob Haskell

- ▶ National Guard soldiers deploy to fight forest fires in Colorado and other western states.

- ▶ SSG Randy Cheadle and SFC Tobias Meister are selected as 2002 active-duty and reserve-component drill sergeants of the year.

July

- ▶ The first battalion of the Afghan National Army graduates from training at the Afghan Military Academy. U.S. Army special-forces soldiers helped train and equip the new force.
- ▶ Four military wives at Fort Bragg, N.C., are murdered by their active-duty husbands in the span of less than six weeks. Ongoing investigations probe whether the killings are related to recent deployments to Afghanistan or from pre-existing marital problems.



SPC Eric Hughes

- ▶ Civil-affairs teams expand assistance to the Bagram and Mazar-e-Sharif regions of Afghanistan, reconstructing schools and bringing food and medical support to local civilians.



- ▶ More than 1 million visitors to www.americasarmy.com download an online video game, "America's Army," within just 10 days of its release. Actually two separate role-playing games, "America's Army" is a new recruiting tool to attract young people and explain Army values and activities.

August

- ▶ Exercise Millennium Challenge 2002 is the first all-services warfighting experiment to explore how joint forces of 2007 could conduct rapid and decisive operations against an adaptive, advanced and aggressive enemy. Sponsored by the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., the event takes place at eight actual and 17 simulated locations nationwide and involves some 13,000 service members ashore, afloat and in the air.
- ▶ Continuing MC 02 and the Army Transformation Experiment, elements of the Fort Lewis-based Stryker Brigade Combat Team are transported aboard the HSV-X1 *Joint Venture*, a giant, wave-piercing catamaran. This is the Army's first demonstration of the experimental high-speed logistics vessel's ability to transport complete packages of combat-ready soldiers with their equipment.



- ▶ The Army meets all its recruiting and retention goals for fiscal year 2002, about six weeks ahead of schedule. The enlistment goals were 79,500 new recruits for the active Army and 28,825 for the Army Reserve. The retention goal was 49,000 re-enlistments for the active Army.



- ▶ MC 02 also marks the first tactical deployment of the SBCT. Elements of the innovative unit travel to the National Training Center, where SBCT soldiers test the wheeled infantry-carrier vehicle against a realistic opposing force and under extreme desert conditions.
- ▶ A team from the U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii begins recovery efforts in Tibet at two World War II aircraft crash sites in the Himalayan Mountains.
- ▶ The U.S. Postal Service announces it will issue a special Purple Heart stamp to honor veterans wounded in combat.

September

SSG Marcia T. Hart

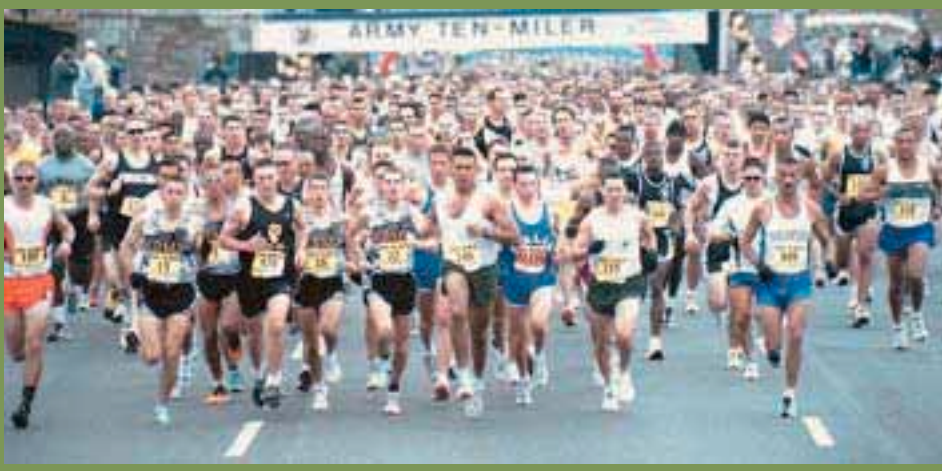


- ▶ SFC Jeffery Stitzel, from Fort Myer, Va., and SPC Justin Brown, from Baumholder, Germany, are named NCO and Soldier of the Year in the first-ever Armywide competition.
- ▶ A Turkish man and his fiancée, a U.S. military employee, found with 287 pounds of chemicals and five pipe bombs, are arrested near Heidelberg, Germany. Authorities allege the pair was planning an attack on the headquarters of U.S. Army, Europe.

- ▶ Special-forces soldiers shoot and kill a would-be assassin in Afghanistan. The shooting occurs after a gunman wounds the governor of Kandahar as he and Afghan President Hamid Karzai are walking to a car outside the governor's palace.
- ▶ More than 1,000 members of the National Guard are called to flood-relief duty in Louisiana and Mississippi, and another 50 take up stations in Alabama in response to devastation caused by Tropical Storm Isidore.
- ▶ The new U.S. Disciplinary Barracks opens at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., replacing the oldest penal institution in the federal system.
- ▶ Tony Schumacher, driver of the Army Top Fuel dragster, wins the 2002 National Hot Rod Association's most prestigious competition, the Mac Tools U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis, Ind.
- ▶ The Army grants \$900,000 to Biopure Corporation of Cambridge, Mass., to develop a blood substitute that could be used on the battlefield, where blood transfusions are often impractical.

October

- ▶ A team of Army World Class Athlete Program runners sweeps the top four spots in the 18th running of the Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C. 1LT Ryan Kirkpatrick runs the 10-mile race in 48 minutes, 35 seconds, leading a record field of 11,901 runners.



Tim Hipps

- ▶ Northern Command — a joint military command responsible for the defense of the 48 contiguous states, Alaska, Canada, Mexico and waters up to 500 miles off the North American coastlines — opens at Peterson AFB, Colo. The command will work to prevent and deter attacks from land, sea, air and by computer networks.
- ▶ Soldiers from the 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg begin training the soldiers who will make up the fifth battalion of the Afghan National Army. The U.S. soldiers had previously trained the first and third battalions, and French special-forces soldiers had trained the second and fourth battalions.
- ▶ A multi-service team from Special Operations Command, Europe, evacuates hundreds of civilians from Ivory Coast when rebels threaten the safety of Americans and other foreigners in the West African nation.
- ▶ Soldiers Radio and Television begins 24-hour webcasts of music, live DOD news briefings and Army news. The new service is available through a "Soldiers Radio Live" button on the Army Homepage at www.army.mil.
- ▶ Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White officially activates the Installation Management Agency. The IMA will standardize installation-support services around the world, centralize money flow among installations and delegate city-management tasks to garrison commanders, freeing mission commanders to focus on their primary tasks.
- ▶ A special-forces soldier and three Filipinos are killed in a bombing of an open-air market outside Zamboanga. Another special-forces soldier is injured in the blast, which leads to charges against members of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

November



- ▶ The Army takes delivery of its second high-speed experimental logistics vessel, the TSV-1X *Spearhead*. Similar to but more capable than the HSV-X1 *Joint Venture*, *Spearhead* immediately begins supporting ongoing operations worldwide.

- ▶ A high-energy laser shoots down an artillery shell in midflight in tests at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The test was part of a new series to demonstrate the system's ability against a wide range of airborne targets.
- ▶ Army Knowledge Online e-mail addresses become the official e-mail addresses for all soldier business conducted through U.S. Total Army Personnel Command.

December

- ▶ SMA Jack Tilley leads an overseas USO tour headlined by country music star Daryl Worley, the Army Band and others to entertain troops engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom.